

Edwards: House Passes 2011 Budget That Cuts Non-Defense Spending By \$7 Billion □

(Washington, D.C.) -- U.S. Representative Chet Edwards voted for a 2011 federal budget that cuts spending \$7 billion below the Administration's budget proposed for 2011, which already freezes all non-defense appropriations at 2010 levels. The "budget enforcement resolution" Edwards supported provides a budget plan for fiscal year 2011 as Congress prepares to vote later this year on recommendations from the Bipartisan Fiscal Commission on long-term budget reforms.

Edwards said, *"I supported this 2011 budget because it cuts spending by \$7 billion more than the White House budget, which is especially important given our high federal deficits. Even though all non-defense spending is frozen, I do not believe the Obama Administration's deficit reduction proposal cuts enough spending. While we await the recommendations from the Bipartisan Fiscal Commission on additional long-term budget reforms later this year, we are making needed spending cuts today to start reducing long-term structural deficits."*

Reducing federal deficits should be a high national priority, which is why I voted for budgets that led to surpluses in the 1990's, and I opposed budgets over the last decade that turned those surpluses into massive deficits. To get spending and deficits under control, I have authored permanent pay as you go budget rules that were passed into law this year to help reduce spending and return Congress to the proven budget policies that helped balance the budget in the late 1990s.

The American people understand that with two wars and the deepest recession since the Great Depression, we cannot balance the budget over night, but it is time to start reducing the projected long-term deficits. The 2011 budget is only the first step, but it sends the message that real steps are being taken to reduce long-term deficits."

With the passage of this budget, the House has now passed limits on spending for the 2011 appropriations process, and passed permanent pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budget principles, which Edwards authored and were signed into law in February. The House is expected to vote this year on budget proposals made by the Bipartisan Fiscal Commission to address long-term budget deficits and entitlement reform.